



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 1, 2006

Sanders Takes Charge on First Day as San Diego “Strong Mayor”

Mayor Announces City’s Preparations for Monday Rain Storm

San Diego – Jerry Sanders got off to a fast start today as the City’s new “strong mayor” by announcing the City’s plans for the rain storm expected to hit the region early Monday morning. As of January 1, Sanders became responsible – and therefore accountable – for the day to day functions of City government. This represents a huge sea change for the way in which City government has been doing business. “We have a lot of work ahead of us. The next few years will be painful ones for our City,” said Sanders. “What I can promise is that every day, we’ll make progress toward getting the City back on track.”

Sanders said his first priority would be the City’s financial health, including the completion of several investigations into the troubled pension system.

One of the new main differences between yesterday and today is that the Mayor is now responsible for basis City services. While City Hall maybe closed today, the services provided by City government are very much open and operational. Accompanied by Fire Chief Jeff Bowman and Public Works Chief Rich Haas, the Mayor detailed the preparations those City departments and others will be making for the anticipated rainfall. These include: City crews checking critical

drains and channels to ensure that they remain clear; patrolling for downed trees, mud slides and slope failures; and adjusting tide gates to handle surges and swift flowing water.

Since a Flash Flood Watch has been issued, Mayor Sanders counseled property owners to take special precautions. Sand and bags are now available throughout the City. Because of the slick roadways, motorists should take special precautions as they drive and not enter a flooded roadway.

A High Surf Advisory has been issued through Wednesday morning. “My advice is to stay out of the water for the next few days,” said the Mayor. “While our lifeguards are on duty, do us all a favor and let’s make their next few days like the Maytag Repairman.”

The new mayor will announce his plans to reorganize City government at a press conference on Tuesday, January 3rd at noon at City Hall.

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FACT SHEET

City Details Preparations for Monday Rains

WARNINGS ISSUED

- Flash Flood Watch/Warning possible
- High Surf Advisory

POLICE/FIRE/LIFEGUARDS

- On call 24/7 to respond to life threatening emergencies and traffic accidents.
- Will close roadways as necessary.
- Lifeguards/swift water rescue crews on duty.

PUBLIC WORKS

Storm Patrol Prep:

Crews check critical drains & channels to ensure they're free of debris that could cause flooding.
Crews check problem areas where there is a history of debris building up to block drains.
Tide gates are adjusted to handle surges and swift flowing water.
Storm pump stations are manned & patrolled 24-hours.
Pre-stage low-lying areas with orange mesh fencing in case of road closures.
Stock sand & bags to deliver to designed fire/lifeguard stations for distribution to the public.
Stock crew trucks with manual pumps & generators for quick response.

During Storm Patrol:

Crews continually check critical drains & problem areas.
Emergency crews deliver barricades/fencing to flooded areas at the request of PD & Fire.
Crew patrols for downed trees, mud slides and slope failures.
Crews stationed in North County, South Bay, Beach Communities and flood-prone areas to reach problems quickly.
Forward updates to City website on street closures.

MAYOR'S ADVICE TO CITIZENS

- Drive safely, roadways will be slick. Don't venture into flooded roadways.
- Stay out of the ocean for the next several days. Water is expected to be extremely rough.
- Safeguard private property in flood prone areas.